



ONTARIO

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

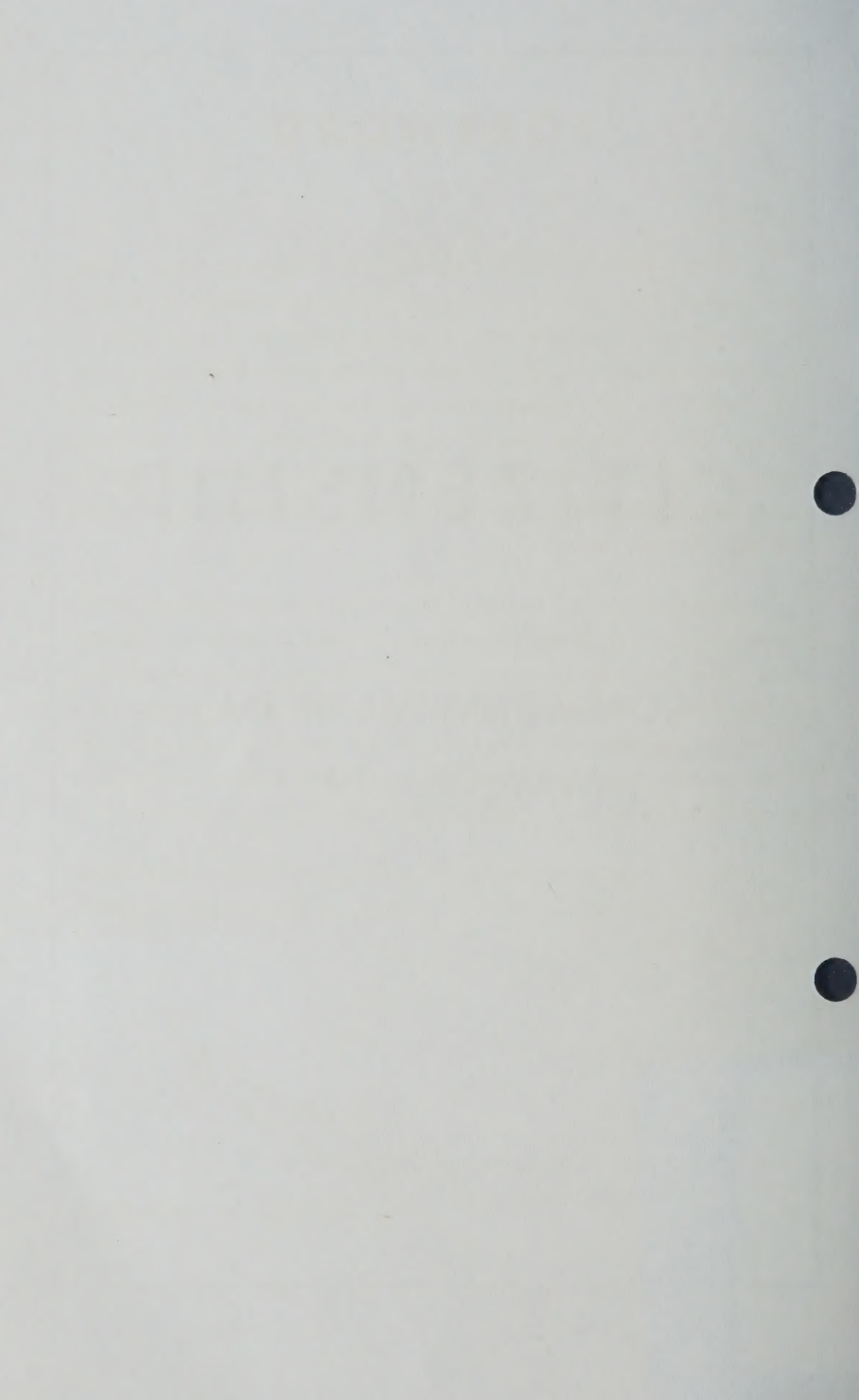
CITIZENSHIP

COMMONWEALTH DAY

MAY 17th 1957

ISSUED BY AUTHORITY OF
THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION

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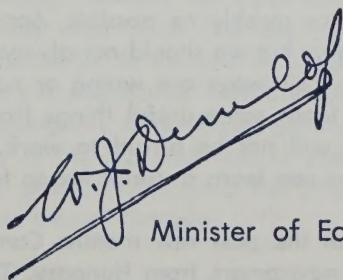


FOREWORD

In her annual radio address on Christmas Day, 1956, our Queen, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second, several times referred to the advantages enjoyed by the citizens of the Commonwealth. Of all such advantages the greatest is, as Canadians and others everywhere will agree, FREEDOM which really means liberty within the law; and we must never forget that our freedom is based on the British institutions which we have inherited from the liberty-loving citizens of the British Isles.

This great Commonwealth of Nations consists of many independent countries, including Britain, Northern Ireland, Eire, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, India, Pakistan, South Africa, and other smaller ones. One after another the different peoples have achieved self-government with the right to manage their own affairs and to maintain as close or as loose a tie with the Mother Country as they desire.

May I suggest that the morning assembly or an hour during the day be devoted to a study of some of the aspects of Citizenship.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'W. J. Dennis', is written over a horizontal line.

Minister of Education.

Commonwealth Day

CITIZENSHIP

Suggested Scripture Readings

- Matt. XXII, 16-22 - A distinction is drawn between worldly and spiritual responsibilities
- or Acts XXII, 24-29 - Paul's Roman citizenship saves him from punishment without proper trial
- or Acts XXV, 1-12 - Paul exercises his right as a Roman citizen to appeal to Caesar

NEW CANADIANS

In nearly every school or community in Canada there are some new arrivals. They are in a strange country with different customs, and perhaps a new language. It is not easy for them to learn our ways, but we can all do our best to be friendly with them, we can show them how we do things, and we can help them to learn our language as quickly as possible. Some of their ways may seem strange to us but we should not always suppose that our ways are right and their ways are wrong or not as good as ours. We can probably learn some useful things from them. We shall also find that they will not be afraid to work very hard to succeed, and some of us can learn a useful lesson from them in this respect.

Within the past few months Canada has welcomed a large group of newcomers from Hungary. The use of Russian troops to

defeat the attempts of the people of Hungary to choose a new government forced many of them to leave their country. A large number of these people who escaped over the border into Austria have chosen to come to Canada. Their willingness to leave all their possessions behind them and to start their lives over again in a new country rather than submit to tyranny in their homeland should make them valuable citizens.

We call the people who come to Canada from other countries New Canadians, but the truth is that most of us are new Canadians. Even if we were born here our parents or grandparents or ancestors must have been newcomers to Canada. Perhaps even the Indians and Eskimos, who were here before the arrival of Columbus or the Norsemen, found their way to North America from other parts of the world. There is no reason at all for thinking less of people because they are newly arrived. Most of us are Canadians by accident of birth but these people chose Canada as their country and came here of their own free will.

BECOMING A CANADIAN CITIZEN

Anyone who was born in Canada is a Canadian citizen by birth. Of course he does not attain all the privileges of a citizen until he is grown up. As a child the law says he must go to school. He is expected to learn to read and write, and he must be educated in other ways so that he may earn his living and fulfil his duties as a citizen.

A newcomer to Canada cannot become a citizen immediately. For him, as for the native-born, there must be a period of preparation for full citizenship. Although he may be quite sure that he wants to be a Canadian he must wait for at least five years before he can actually apply for citizenship. At the end of this period the newcomer has become thoroughly acquainted with Canadian ways, has learned to speak our language, is working and perhaps buying a house and, most important of all, has had time to make up his mind whether he is ready to give up completely the citizenship of his native country and assume that of Canada.

These then are the legal steps toward becoming a Canadian

citizen. A Petition for Citizenship must be made after the completion of five years in Canada. This paper must be taken to the Clerk of a court of law in the district where the New Canadian resides. After a waiting period of three months the applicant for citizenship will be called before a Judge of the Court who will examine him to make sure that his character is good, that he has a sufficient knowledge of the language, and that after five years in the country he has learned something of the history and geography of Canada, and of his rights and responsibilities as a citizen.

If the Judge thinks that Citizenship should be granted he informs the Secretary of State at Ottawa, and a Certificate of Citizenship is prepared. However there is one more step to be taken before the certificate is given to the applicant. He must first take an Oath of Allegiance.

THE OATH OF ALLEGIANCE

The loyalty of anyone born in Canada is taken for granted and, unless he goes into one of the Armed Forces or some branches of the Civil Service, it is quite possible that a native Canadian may never be called on to take an Oath of Allegiance. If he goes to live in another country, he is still a Canadian unless he gives up his citizenship.

In the same way anyone born in another country coming to Canada is legally a citizen of his native country until he gives up that citizenship. The Oath of Allegiance taken by a new citizen means not only that he swears to be loyal to Canada, but also that he formally gives up his other citizenship.

The wording of the Oath of Allegiance is interesting because it shows something of its historical origin. In feudal times it was assumed that the King owned the land. If he granted a large estate to one of his lords he required a pledge of personal loyalty, along with an agreement to give military service and to furnish a number of soldiers when required*.

*The pledge of loyalty or allegiance to the King was then followed by a symbolic transfer of the land. A sod or a handful of earth was given to the lord as a token of the King's gift. This ceremony was once performed for a part of Canada. In the

An Oath of Allegiance is still a pledge of personal loyalty to the Sovereign, and the wording of the first part of the oath is of very ancient origin. Of course loyalty to Queen Elizabeth, who is Queen of Canada, means loyalty to Canada as a country and to its government and laws. The second part of the pledge suggests something of the duties of a citizen.

The Oath of Allegiance

I swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth the Second, her Heirs and Successors, according to law, and that I will faithfully observe the laws of Canada and fulfill my duties as a Canadian citizen. So help me God.

To complete the steps to becoming a Canadian the new citizen, probably one of a group, comes into court and, standing before the Judge, is required to place his hand upon the Bible and to repeat aloud the solemn words of the Oath of Allegiance. The ceremony is made as impressive as possible by the presence of the Judge and officers of the Court in their robes, and Mounted Police in their scarlet coats, and the spectators present to welcome the new Canadians to their citizenship.

THE PRIVILEGES OF CANADIAN CITIZENSHIP

From the beginning of her history Canada has always been a haven of refuge. Many of the first settlers of Quebec came from France to find land and homes in which they could escape from over-crowding and poverty. The United Empire Loyalists came here to maintain their loyalty to the Crown. New settlers arrived from the British Isles because they wanted to escape the over-crowded

reigns of King James I and King Charles I an attempt was made to colonize Nova Scotia. For this purpose a number of baronets were created who were to divide the country and arrange for bringing out settlers. To fulfil the old requirements for a grant of this kind, the King designated as a part of Nova Scotia a small plot in the grounds of Edinburgh Castle in Scotland, so that the new baronets might technically stand on their new estates while they were given a handful of earth as a token of possession, and took the oath of loyalty.

conditions of the English cities or because they were displaced from their farms in Scotland or driven out of Ireland by the famine which followed the failure of the potato harvest. During the American Civil War escaped slaves found a refuge here, and for the past hundred years victims of oppression or religious persecution in many parts of Europe have come seeking an opportunity for a new life in Canada.

Canadians who have lived here all their lives and have known no other conditions find it difficult to appreciate the privileges which they enjoy. What do the newcomers find here to attract them in thousands to this country? Chiefly they find freedom and justice and equality in a land of opportunity.

Canadians should never forget that there are countries where poverty and a very low standard of living have existed for centuries and where opportunities for advancement are not to be found. They should remember, too, that there are parts of the world where a man must work where he is sent, live where he is told, do a stated amount of work daily, and work for wages which he must accept without question; where a farmer is only a labourer on a state-owned farm which must produce its fixed amount of produce before the workers can have any share in the crop; where the individual has no choice of his life work but must go to the factory or the army, the farm or the mine as the state directs.

What does the new Canadian find here? He is free to choose his own work and to move from one job to another if he wishes. He is free to belong to a labour union and to ask for more wages or better working conditions. He can work for himself at any trade or business. He can buy and possess his own home or farm and can move from one part of the country to another as he wishes, without having to report to the police. He is free from military service, except in wartime.

He is free to worship God in his own way; to meet freely with others in social groups; to hold any political views; to retain and use his own native tongue and to read magazines and newspapers printed in his own language.

He finds justice under the law which makes no difference

between rich and poor and takes no account of race or colour or creed, but only distinguishes what is right and what is wrong. He finds no oppression but only such taxes as are fixed by his own elected representatives acting under the laws of the land.

Above all he finds equality—a free and equal education for all and an equal opportunity for anyone by his own efforts to train himself for any occupation or to rise to any position in business, in the professions, or in the service of his country.

THE DUTIES OF CITIZENSHIP

As Canadians we are proud of our citizenship and of our right to share in the freedom, the justice, the equality, and the plenty we enjoy in Canada. We are glad to extend the privilege of our citizenship to others who have shown that they appreciate the nature of that privilege and are willing to share its duties.

If we are to continue to enjoy its advantages we must recognize that citizenship implies duties as well as privileges. Thousands of Canadians have served their country in the Armed Forces in time of war. This is the highest duty of citizenship and many Canadians have been called to lay down their lives in their country's service. In a democracy this duty and perhaps this sacrifice may be required of any citizen in times of national danger.

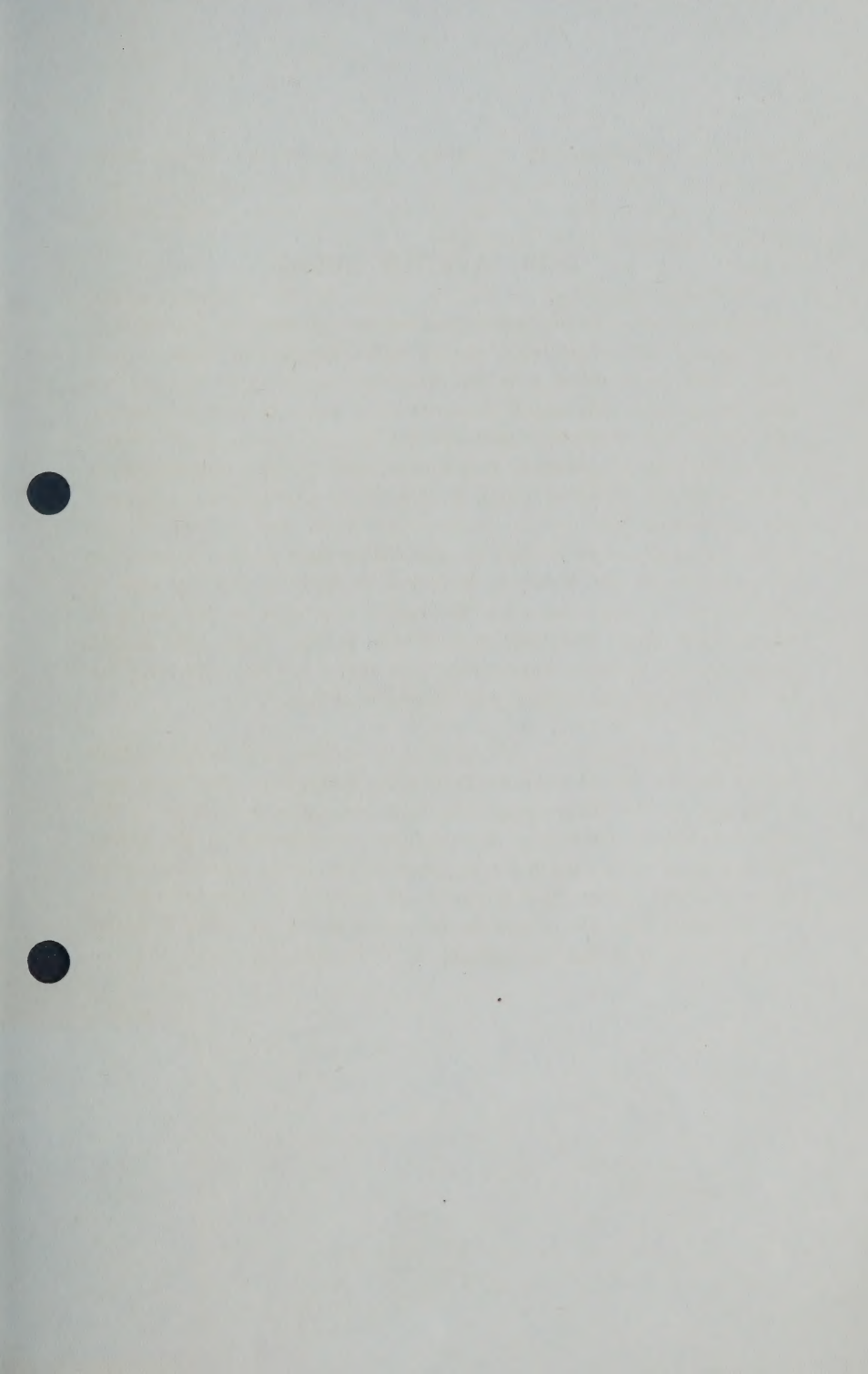
At all times there are the obvious every-day duties of a citizen—obeying the laws as they are made for the good of all; being willing to help in the enforcement of these laws, by serving as a juryman when required, or being ready to assist a police officer if called upon; paying his taxes and remembering that to evade them places a heavier burden on others. He should vote whenever there is an election and be fully informed what the election is about so that he may vote wisely and according to his conscience for the welfare of his community or province or country.

There are also duties which are not always recognized as such but which are a very real part of good citizenship—doing an honest job and trying to do it well or to find ways of doing it better; trying to improve one's knowledge or skill or ability; work-

ing hard, not necessarily to make a lot of money, but to make Canada a better place to live in; helping one's neighbours and taking a part in the activities of the community. These are all ways of being a good Canadian.

A good Canadian is also a citizen of the Commonwealth, recognizing not only the bonds created by our common history and past events which we have shared with the Mother Country and with other parts of the British Commonwealth and Empire, but also the present ties which ought to bind us more firmly together. We share with them Her Majesty the Queen, successor of a long line of faithful sovereigns, who is the head of the Commonwealth and the central figure to whom our loyalty as Canadians is pledged. We remember the mutual assistance which the nations of the Commonwealth have shared in wartime in such endeavours as the Commonwealth Air Training Plan and in fighting side by side in battlefields in every part of the world. We think of the ways in which that spirit of helpfulness which is true citizenship is still being shown in such undertakings as the Colombo Plan and the sharing of material wealth and technical skill.

More and more we are coming to realize that being a good citizen should not be confined to loyalty to Canada. We have also a loyalty to the Commonwealth, and we have a loyalty to the world—a world citizenship. Through our membership in the United Nations, and in our share in the work of the many agencies which operate under it for the betterment of conditions everywhere, we are showing that we recognize our duty to try to make a better world and to promote the welfare of all the peoples in it.



GOD SAVE THE QUEEN

*God save our gracious Queen,
Long live our noble Queen,
God save the Queen;
Send her victorious,
Happy and glorious,
Long to reign over us;
God save the Queen.*

*Thy choicest gifts in store,
On her be pleased to pour,
Long may she reign!
May she defend our laws,
And ever give us cause,
To sing with heart and voice,
God save the Queen!*

*Our loved Dominion bless
With peace and happiness
From shore to shore;
And let our Empire be
United, loyal, free,
True to herself and Thee
For evermore.*